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Cuba Shows No Sign of Ray's Pledged Return, Despite Rumors

From News Dispatches

Despite rumors and counter-rumors, the promised day of action came and went yesterday without report of any activity by 39-year-old Manuel Ray, Cuban revolutionary leader who had pledged to be back on the island May 20, Cuban Independence Day.

In fact, much of the activity concerning the island was taking place outside.

In Nicaragua, there were increasing signs that the campaign that Cuban exiles claim they are mounting against Premier Fidel Castro originates at bases other than rumored sites in central America.

High government sources in Managua discounted news dispatches reporting anti-Castro staging areas or training grounds in Nicaragua.

And former President Luis Somoza, who has been openly helping one of the exile leaders, Manuel Artime, said: "There are no official bases in Nicaragua, Guatemala or Costa Rica."

In Washington, the Citizens Committee for a Free Cuba said it had been informed that some infiltrators entered Northern Cuba Tuesday night.

The Committee said the group was small and it would be misleading to call the operation a landing.

An organization of U.S. Cit-

izens opposed the Castro regime. The Committee maintains close contacts with anti-Castro/Cuban exiles in Miami and elsewhere and is usually well informed on their activities.

In Miami, two Cuban exile organizations issued declarations of war against the Castro regime. But there was no immediate indication when fighting might begin on the island.

A formal warning to Castro that a guerrilla warfare plan is about to be launched by forces headed by exile Major Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo was beamed to Cuba first by short-wave radio.

Then the Revolutionary Junta, headed by Ray, issued a "May 20th Proclamation" declaring that "a new war of independence is begun on Cuban soil."

It called on Castro's troops and militia to revolt and promised amnesty for them once Castro is overthrown.

The proclamation was signed by 14 top Junta leaders, including Ray, whose aides said they "presumed" he was on the island, as he had promised, but they had no confirmation.

In Cuba, meanwhile, the Castro regime ordered "practice" air and artillery maneuvers across infiltration-prone western Cuba.

Havana dispatches said the government, apparently react-

ing to a night-long barrage of clandestine radio calls for open revolt and sabotage that continued yesterday, ordered "artillery practice" in western Pinar del Rio Province and "jet plane maneuvers" between Pinar del Rio and Matanzas.

At the same time, the Cuban labor movement in eastern Oriente Province decreed "total mobilization" for defense and production and Armed Forces Minister Raul Castro called a mass rally in Santiago for Friday night to demonstrate popular support for the regime.

Three clandestine broadcasts at midmorning in the name of

the Revolutionary Student Directorate called on Cuban students to "join the revolt" against Castro and urged the citizenry to undercut the island's weakened electric power supply by leaving the lights on.

An unusually wide variety of short-wave transmissions were heard between midnight and daylight. Some featured the voice of a woman who exhorted Cuban mothers to encourage their sons to rebel.

Claims that exile "combatants" are now on Cuban soil and that infiltration forces are ensconced in certain mountain ranges also were broadcast.